

★ 56a Info Shop

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SOLIDARITY WITH GREEK ANARCHISTS

There was a good response to the picket of Olympic Airways, the Greek airline company, called by Anarchist Black Cross and International Solidarity Network to demonstrate in support of Anarchist friends recently tortured and jailed in Athens after the recent protests there. (see Page 5)

On Monday 18th August, about 25 people gathered in Piccadilly, outside the Airline office with large banner reading " Beaten, Tortured...Free Greek Anarchist Prisoners." One cop tried to tell us to leave the area but he was contradicted by some other cops who said we could stay ! Anyway we gave out a load of leaflets to passing City types, tourists and all.

After a couple of hours, a smaller group of us descended on the Greek Embassy in lush Holland Park who were considerably upset by the presence of fifteen Anarchists loitering outside and leafleting those coming and going from the Embassy. After a long time, the cops arrived and pretended that they had honoured their "two-minute response time" for embassies under siege. We stayed around for a bit but we felt that we had made our point at the Embassy and having so few passersby we made our way home.

Special thanks to members of Kingston Anarchist Youth Federation (in Canada) who were in town at the time and supported the demo.

The International Solidarity Network can be contacted via 56a Info Shop. The I.S.N is keen to distribute info about struggles (our own and international ones also) to encourage more communication between activists and to encourage practical solidarity actions. Get in touch if you want to be involved or are interested.



SQUAT the WORLD!

The Home Office has opened up a period of consultation for changes in the Squatting laws although they don't want to hear any "spurious pro-squatting arguments". The consultation ends in March '92 and then they intend to change the law (!?) although an election is inevitable around this time so such changes may be lost (although not forgotten by Tories AND Labour).

Squatters Action For Secure Homes (SQUASH) has been founded by various squatters and local squatting groups. Action so far has been to set up working groups on campaigning, press releases and finances and networking.

Local squatting groups in Lambeth, Southwark, Hackney and Camden are also organising local initiatives (eg. a March in Hackney...21st Dec.) -> *about 250 on this demo.*

SQUASH can be contacted via Advisory Service For Squatters 071-359-8814.

LOCAL SQUATTING CONTACTS

* Brixton Squatters Aid.

121 Railton Road. SE24. 071 274-6655 * SHIP.

612 Old Kent Rd. SE15 071 277 7639
(Squatters in Southwark who want to resist this shit can contact "Southwark Squatters Network" via 56a Info Bookshop).



Newsletter 4 from Blitz

November 1991

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Anti-fascist Autumn!!!

Anti-fascist demonstration in Brumunddal

During the summer there were rumours going round that the fascist-leader Arne Myrdal was intending to hold a new series of public meetings to spread his lies. Arne Myrdal is the former leader of „The Peoples Movement Against Immigration“ (FMI), but after he got a 1 year conviction for planning to blow up an refugee center, he got frozen out from FMI. He then founded „Norwegians Against Immigration“ (NMI).

The mobilizing of the anti-fascists in Oslo started immediately after we got to know the exact date and place for the meeting; the August, 31 in Brumunddal, a small village north of Oslo with 8000 citizens.

Aktion Against Organized Racism (AMOR), which is put together by different groups from the left wing in Norway and independent anti-racists, started up their work again, to organize and mobilize for the counter-demonstration in Brumunddal. We had a lot of discussions about how we should form the demonstration. The reason for us taking part in organizing a demonstration in an other city or village, is that the active anti-fascists often are too few and too unorganized in such small places to be able to do it without any practical help. We believe it is important to have contacts and cooperate with local anti-fascists, so we had several meetings with the local activists. During the discussions with the local anti-racists in Brumunddal, it became quite clear that they did not like the idea of chasing the racists away. There has been a discussion on this subject going on among anti-racists for a long time. A lot of people believe that it is wrong to stop

the fascists in talking public, because it would hurt the principal of free speech. We do not agree with this, but we decided to follow the local anti-racists wishes. The type of the demonstration has to be adjusted to the local conditions, and that the form of demonstration we would have preferred perhaps would have worked out fine in a larger city, but it would totally miss the point in a village with 8000 inhabitants. Even if we didn't agree with the form of the action, we found it important to help them with the practical work and to show our solidarity.

Brumunddal

Brumunddal was already well known for all the attacks against third world immigrants, the statistics say 1/3 of all attacks on black immigrants in Norway have taken place in Brumunddal. One immigrant got his shop firebombed 8 times by fascists. In the end he had to move out of the village.

The youth in Brumunddal has traditionally gone straight from the obligatory school to work in the local industry. But during the last years a lot of the factories have been closed down, and it has caused a high rate of unemployment. There are few possibilities to get any further education.

The center of the village is totally dominated by racists and fascists, and daily harassment of anti-fascists and immigrants in Brumunddal is usual, one of the local organizers of the counter-demonstration on August, 31 was tried run over by car a few days ahead of the demo. Arne Myrdal was invited to gather the meeting in

Brumunddal by the local big fat no-brain fascistguru Arild Elvsveen, a real psychopath which is famous in Brumunddal for having blown up cows with the „wrong colour“, and also for demolishing shops with a chainsaw, just because they wouldn't let him come first in the queue. He is also the leader for the local NMI-group.

August 31

Saturday morning August, 31 130 anti-fascists left from Oslo to Brumunddal by busses. 11 o'clock a.m. they met with 50-60 anti-fascists from the cities surrounding Brumunddal and anti-fascists from Brumunddal. Half past 11 300 anti-fascists marched through the center of Brumunddal to the square (Mobiltomta) where the fascists meeting was going to start at noon. Some of the fascists were already there when the demo reached Mobiltomta. After a short fight their P.A. was smashed to smithereens. The fascists and the anti-fascists were standing front to front with a dead zone of a few meters between each part. At that point we were many enough to chase them away, but the local anti-fascists believed that it would be wrong. After an hour 20 riotcops entered the scene, and pretended that they were keeping the law and order. Thousands of local people had met up to look at the „show“, the situation got more and more intense. The fascists had permission to hold their meeting between noon and 14 p.m., and we had announced that we would stay there until 14 p.m. For an hour, until the counter-demonstration was finished, the fascists and local youth stood covered by the

cops, whilst hundreds of bottles and stones were hurling at the antifa-demo. There was little possibility to attack the fascists because of the local anti-fascists were total non-violent, they didn't want any confrontation. All this time it was possible for the fascists to mobilize those who were just standing on the sideline and watching.

This was also the first time that Arne Myrdal was standing openly together with militant neo-nazis. He has had contact with them for many years, but has consequently denied this to the public.

Anti-fascists hurt

Myrdal had to finish his speech earlier than planned, and at 2 o'clock p.m. we started to walk together to the railwaystation, where the busses were standing. On our way back the counter-demonstration was heavily attacked by fascists. Many people were hurt by the stones, and several got badly beaten up by the fascists. An iranian man was hit by a stone, and got an heartattack because of the shock. The anti-fascists had to hit their way out of the village. The hole clash ended up on the highway outside Brumunddal. The windows in one of the busses got smashed when the police forced the busdriver to drive trough the fascists lines to pick us up.

Press Attention

The confrontation caused a lot of press attention, all the newspapers wrote

about it for weeks. The local media, which is dominated by social-democratic newspapers, massively criticized the people and politicians of Brumunddal for not taking their responsibility for the extreme racism which has grown so strong in Brumunddal. Lot's of discussions took place in the media about how to fight racism, and why. For many weeks the papers was dominated by anti-fascist letters to the newspapers.

However, the commercial norwegian press in their desperat need of increasing their circulation, turned from informaive journalism and writing about anti-fascist activity to interviewing fascists. The nazi-skinhead group Boot Boys, who were some of the active, militant nazis in Brumunddal, were interviewd on Norwegian national TV-news. Boot Boys are lead by Ole Krogstad with other nazi-skins like Geir Brurok (former squatter and singer in the radical punkband Betong Hysteria) and Jan Holthe (a former UN-soldier in Lebanon). It was free „commercial“ for Boot Boys.

New Public Meeting

Because of the clash in Brumunddal, the population was forced to take a stand. Many people didn't think that the racism was so big and that it could be any serious problem, but all the press-attention and the shock from the clash opened many peoples eyes. This

does not mean that everybody suddenly became anti-racist, many citizens of Brumunddal have been brought up with racism printed into their brains, and have tought that to their children too.

Local Mobilizing

Myrdal said his demo on August 31 was so successful that he wanted to come back. The local social-democratic anti-racist organisation (BPNV), which was formed earlier this year and which is lead by people high up in the local political system, called for an defensive demonstration against Myrdal and NMI. Their plan was to turn meet up and turn their backs to Arne Myrdal and his organisation, without shouting slogans and without banners. 4000 of Brumunddals citizens paricipated in the demo. This is quite important because many people are still against the immigrants, but they don't want that the rest of the country look upon them as supporters of an extreme fascist like Arne Myrdal. After both of the demos the attacks on immigrants and anti-fascists continued. Some weeks later some racists put up a 3 meter tall christian cross outside Brumunddal and set fire to it in Ku Klux Klan style, and 21 October fascists shot 4 bullets through the bedroom window of two iranians flat. One the shots hit the cuddon in the bed, luckily no one slept in the room that night.

10 000 demonstrating against Arne Myrdal!

NMI felt much stronger after the clash in Brumunddal, and 200-300 people supported NMI in their second public meeting.

In september Myrdal announced that he would have a public meeting in Oslo on October 26, in a surburb of Oslo (Stovner) where the racism is stronger, and where he knows it's easier to get away if he are attacked by anti-fascists. Last time he tried to have a public meeting in Oslo was in 1988. 3000 anti-fascists were mobilised to chase him away, but he never dared to show his face. He knows that Oslo is a strong anti-racist zone, therefore he also set out rumours that he will have 1000 men

with him to defend his meeting.

The local surburb council said that they did not want Myrdal in their part of the city, and the owner of the square where the meeting was supposed to be said that he did not want any meeting on his ground.

The police would not go against this, so Myrdal couldn't have his meeting at Stovner. AMOR had already started mobilizing for a demo against racism on the 26 October at Stovner. About 200 people met up.

Later the police decided that Arne Myrdal was to have his meeting on November 9th (the crystal night) on a big square, Youngstorget, in the center

of the city. This square is traditionally the Labour-movements square.

Fascists Beaten

2 November Boot Boys wanted to demonstrate the power they thought they finally had gotten, by walking around the streets in Oslo and terrorizing black people and anti-fascists.

They had recruited new members with good help from the media, and 20-30 of them went to Oslo by train. They went through Oslo City (a big shoppingcenter), where a lot of youth gangs of black and white people, but strongly anti-fascist, hang around,

shouting sieg heil and other ridiculous things. Around 8 o'clock in the evening the stormed a bar in Gamlebyen (part of the city were a lot of people from the scene around Blitz live in communities) where anti-fascists and SHARP-skinheads use to be, but there were only 4 anti-fascists in the bar then. 3 antifascists and one fascist were hurt. 40 anti-fascist reacted immediately, and the nazis were chased through the whole town-center. 4-5 nazis were found, but managed to get away in a taxi, by threatening the taxidriver with a knife. The police took him, but set him free after a short while. Some days later he was caught on the Swedish border with a loaded gun and two magazines. It was Johnny Olsen, a nazi who was convicted for murdering two boys in a nazi-intrigue 1979 and sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. Now he has lost all his permissions to be out of jail before he his sentence is finished in 3 years. Later in the evening 20 anti-fascist found the nazi-skin leader Ole Krogstad standing together with two other nazi-skins at the railway station. He got badly beaten up. What the nazis had planned to be a start of a week of terror before the meeting 9 November turned out to be a total disaster for the nazis.

November 9th

Many rumours were in the media in the week before November 9th, AMOR had been mobilizing for a counter-demonstration against Myrdal's meeting for over 3 weeks. But the national trade union (LO) took no part in the mobilizing. The Labour Party said nothing, every bigger organization on the left side kept quiet. Only AMOR mobilized. Fascist attacks were expected in the week before, but the nazis did not dare. The communist daily newspaper wrote that nazi-skins from Sweden would come to support the public fascist meeting. And the two biggest tabloid newspapers wrote big articles about nazis in Germany and Norway.

Antiracists split

The coming city council leader of Oslo, Rune Gerdharsen (Labour) said that people should stay home instead of participating in the demo against Myrdal, and the leader of the Socialist

Left Party, Erik Solheim, also said so. But the city mayor Petter N. Myhre (The Progress Party, liberalist right extremist) said to the media that the meeting should be moved to another date to avoid it being the same date as the crystal night, some people thought that it showed that he did not want Myrdal in Oslo. Probably the mayor thought it wouldn't look good in international terms, that Norway allows a nazi meeting on the same date as Hitler's crystal night. The national trade union (LO) planned to print a one-page announcement in a tabloid newspaper, saying that people should stay home, but luckily it was stopped. The leader of the Organization For Asylumseekers (NOAS), Annette Thommesen, and the bishop of Oslo, Andreas Aarflot, went out in the press and said that they wanted people to demonstrate against Myrdal by turning their backs to him at the demo. This method was used in Brumunddal when 4000 local people demonstrated against Myrdal's second meeting there. Some forces inside the anti-racist movement and the media tried to divide the so-called extremists (AMOR) inside the anti-racist movement. People inside the Anti-racist Center and SOS-racism had on beforehand refused to work together with AMOR in the making of the 26 October demo. Now they did out together with the bishop and the big newspapers and demanded a "non-violent" anti-racist struggle, and a non-confrontation policy against the nazis. AMOR got pointed out as the violent extremists.

The cops promised control of all people who would come to demonstrate

against the fascists. AMOR applied for having a demo against Myrdal on Youngstorget, but of course the police did not permit that.

This didn't seem to affect anybody. Myrdal's meeting was going to start 2 o'clock and the counter-demonstrators started to come already 12 o'clock. The riot police had put up fences around the whole square, and everybody who wanted to get in was searched for weapons and bottles.

When the time reached 2 o'clock 10 000 people had met up to demonstrate against Arne Myrdal and his NMI. It was almost impossible to stop Myrdal, he was surrounded by cops, and he was standing on a balcony, 10 meters higher than the counter-demonstration. For an hour people shouted slogans against him. It was almost impossible to hear him, and after a while he gave up. During the whole demonstration people tried to tear down his speakers.

Afterwards

10 000 people in a demonstration in Oslo is extremely much, it's years ago that so many people were to see in a demonstration. It has always been important for Arne Myrdal to be able to hold one of his public meetings in peace in Oslo, but until now he hasn't managed. The demo was described as a total victory for the non-violent anti-racism by the newspapers.

This is not wrong, but it is dangerous to say that Myrdal feels weakened by this demo. And for the anti-racist movement it means that AMOR will be pushed out, even more by the "non-violent" parts of the anti-racist movement.

56a Info Shop

56a Info Bookshop is a newly established Anarchist bookshop and Information Exchange in sunny South London. As part of the International Solidarity Network, we hope to inform ourselves and others of resistance to the New (Old) World Order from around the country/continent/world...we recognise this resistance as part of our own struggle..

If you have any news from your neck of the woods, please send it in. If you can copy and distribute this, then please do.



URGENT!

A STATEMENT BY ONE OF THE ARRESTED DURING THE LAST SCHOOLCHILDREN'S MANIFESTATIONS

In spite of my situation which did not allow me to be present at my trial I consider that I should not remain silent as far as the events are concerned.

On Oct. 24, 1991 our march started from the Polytechnic and reached the Ministry of Education.

Some pupils tried to meet Souflias (the minister) but he did not receive them.

As the delegation came back slogans started being shouted and eggs were thrown against the building. The manifestants walked on toward the Ministry and started pushing back the police, who were guarding it.

Suddenly a group of 30-40 persons — plain clothed policemen with beards and long hair — emerged all together from a narrow street behind the Ministry, holding long wooden sticks.

The manifestants tried to react as best as they could answering the beating.

There was a total mess. Many ran to help the children who were fallen on the street; others ran to save themselves.

The slogan "COPS-PIGS-ASSASSINS" filled the atmosphere as the whole march started running toward Syntagma square.

A few metres further, down Panepistimiou street, I was arrested because on my school bag there was written the phrase: "THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE HEROIN IS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE STATE".

The hungry of Lavrion (a region near Athens where the unemployed — 100% of the population — due to the privatization policy of the government are virtually starving to death), the revolted of Hania (last year against the US bases in Crete) an Iraklio (this year against the economic policy of austerity), the intimidated and pauperised Albanian refugees, the sick by the heroin unimpedingly sold by dealers outside our schools, the misery, the poverty in our homes, the lies of the Educational System which promises diplomas and false hopes to the "good students of the private preparatory schools", the dirt of the "political persons" and of the "KOSKOTADES" (the author of the well known Bank-of-Crete Scandal which cost the country more than 200 B drachmas) of every kind and size, the workers who every now and then go to the streets, sold out by their own unions, the prisoners stuck in the prisons by the brutality and the barbarism of the system.

...ALL THOSE

...TOOK TO THE STREETS ALONG WITH US and along with them we have expressed our opposition and our disgust to the authoritarian system which wants us neurless, soulless to react, followers, handclappers, eternal victims.

From this position I demand FREEDOM for my 5 co-prisoners who are in the Korydallos prison (Note: The 5 are finally imprisoned in the Larissa prison, 215 km from Athens, in Thessalia).

and I appeal

to the people who insist thinking with dignity and are not bought out — the pupils are such a part of the population — to react, because these sentences (the 5 are already sentenced to 5-8 years of prison) are just the prelude to a whole series of "the same" against who ever dare raise his head.

I express my solidarity to the "Polytechnik 27"

whose trial has not yet ended

Thanassis Haldoupis

Student of the A' Lyceum of the 4th

Technical Professional Lyceums Compound

of Athens

17 years old,

Prisoner at the

Athens General State Hospital

31st October 1991

P.S. To the newspapers which have told half the truth, I have to say: YES. The crisis I had at the court was something like an epileptic crisis, but I am not an epileptic.

I suffered this epileptic crisis due to the beating in the police-van and at the Security police HQs, to the undecipherable conditions of my detention, to the treating and the blackmailing of the "you'll finally tell us what we want you to tell" kind.

All that, combined with a recent operation on my head, have created a craniocerebral damage whose results were shown at the court.

As you know, the educational system in our days is one of the peak-issues, not only of the education itself, but also of the whole social evolution. It therefore becomes a question of the highest importance for all social movements and its solution is continuously dealt with within the ideological context of every single group or individual.

The educational system in Greece is one of the worst in the whole world. It is obsolete, formalistic and anti-humanistic. It complies, of course, with the rest of Greek society, which is highly alienating, especially under the present economic conditions.

In spite of the above, however, Greek society has got a much higher degree of "sociality" than other European countries have. This "sociality" loses daily territory, due to the EEC standards which are being imposed on the country by the IMF and all the other international institutions of the kind.

Children are the first — and the main — victims of this kind of "modernisation". They are losing their playgrounds and their playtime. They are also losing their "sociality" due to their being obliged to live and grow in flats, thus being deprived not only of friends, but even of the very ideas of friendship, community, solidarity etc. For them, the only room to develop a social personality and to maintain these ideas-values, is the school. During the years that followed the fall of the military junta (1974), we have witnessed an "intensification" of studies which was claimed by the different governments to "cover new sectors of knowledge" like electronics, informatics, biology, nuclear physics etc. in an effort of combining educational and economic needs and perspectives.

So far, the situation is reasonable, at least from a purely capitalist point of view. Irrationalism begins when nationalist aspects of the Greek society appear. Religion — and homeland — matters deeply influence our educational system. Last year, after a short interval (1981-1989) of an "educational reform", the ministry of education announced its intention to impose on the schoolchildren to pray every morning and to wear a uniform. This was the start of the unrest. It was soon followed by other oppressive measures, such as more school hours, re-insertion of ancient Greek lessons into the program of high schools etc. Schoolchildren reacted, occupying their schools (in January

1990, more than 90% of the schools throughout the country were occupied by their pupils). The government organised an operation - mainly based on the mobilisation of parents against their children's will and interests - which led to the assassination of Nikos Temponeras, a teacher who was supporting the children's struggle, and 4 other people who were burnt alive by the cops during the manifestations that followed the first murder.

The burst out of the Gulf War, finally, put an end to the unrest - if not revolt - which had already infected technical schools and universities and had gained support, thus seriously threatening the government. During the summer, the government tried to gain the consensus of the political parties of the opposition and started a "national dialogue on education". The opposition, but also the teachers' unions and, above all, the schoolchildren rejected the government's proposals.

In September, the government went on imposing more oppressive measures, such as exams at the elementary schools, exams at each high-school year, more religion and ancient greek lessons etc. Starting October, the schoolchildren started once more occupying schools, to protest and oppose this situation. The government mobilised its followers and incited them to attack the occupied schools. On October 10, the pro-governmental press announced that "a boy of 15 years had raped a 12year girl at an occupied school!" The story was very soon proved false, but this belying never reached the front pages. This was the signal for more attacks of "enraged parents and citizens" against the occupied schools. It is characteristic to mention that a teacher, at a high school in Corfu, stabbed one of his pupils with a pair of scissors, just because the poor boy was fighting against the government's measures. On October 18, schoolchildren in Athens organised a march to the ministry of education. They left the Polytechnic school (a historical place, where most after-junta-manifestations start from and end to) and they headed to the ministry. The minister, Souflias, refused to receive a manifestants' committee. Instead of that, he ordered the police to violently disperse the crowd (more than 2,000 young boys and girls). Police started tear- and choke-gassing the children, who set fire to garbage lots in order to protect themselves from the gases, as they were trying to retreat to the Polytechnic school. Many manifestants were seriously injured.

Next week, on October 24, the children organised another march to the ministry. As the manifestants were approaching the ministry, they were attacked by groups of plainclothes cops and governing-party-followers, who threw stones against the children and beat them with sticks and iron bars. The children retreated to the Syntagma square, where the houses of parliament are. There, they were provoked by the crew of a private-security van. The van was stoned and kicked and then a massive riot police attack obliged the manifestants to leave the square and head back to the Polytechnic. As they were heading there, the manifestants were once more provoked by a TV-team, which tried to video them. A couple of molotov-bombs were thrown and the ANTENNA TV-van (ANTENNA is one of the most fascist TV channels in Greece. It is owned by Kiriakou, a ship owner. It is known as the Cops' TV) was set alight. The manifestants, finally, reached the Polytechnic school. Some of them, seeking safety, entered the school, but the majority and other people from the nearby Exarchia square region barricaded the streets and prepared themselves to resist the police attack. Other manifestants went on and occupied the ASOEE (Commercial and Economics University). It was about 16.00h. when the police started its attack, using tons of tear-, smoke- and choking gas. The people (some 1,000 persons) were obliged to take cover in the Polytechnic or to retreat to the ASOEE. The police then formed a collar around the Polytechnic, isolating one school from the other and blocking all exits of the school.

Six people were arrested that night, during the clashes. Some of them were arrested just because of their appearance. Their names are: Basilis Xanthis, 17 years old, Basilis Kapnisis, 27 years old, Nikos Gougostamos, Iasonas Papadimitriou, Irini Koutsogiorgou and Thanassis Haldoupis.

In the meantime, the clashes continued all night long, outside the Polytechnic and in the streets nearby. The atmosphere was choking with gases. Late at night, the Dean of the Polytechnic, Nikos Markatos, pleaded with the police to stop throwing gases and tried to escort the manifestants out of the Polytechnic and out of the police collar. But, as soon as they came out, the cops started throwing gases at them, while the "enraged citizens" (plainclothes cops, governing-party-followers and all kinds of fascists, organised into groups, threw stones to the people and hit them with sticks, truncheons and iron bars. Some of the

manifestants ran back to the Polytechnic, seeking safety.

At about 3.00h. a.m., the cops and the fascists set fire to an historical building of the Polytechnic school. (The tear- and choke-gas bombs that the police use, are extremely dangerous and can cause fires, as well as severe burns). Early in the morning, the police asked for permission to enter the Polytechnic and evacuate the occupants. (In Greece, all University buildings have some sort of "immunity". The police cannot enter these buildings without a permission from the Dean and the Board of the Professors. This immunity of the Polytechnic had not been violated since 1973, when the junta sent the army to evacuate the school from the occupants). At 9.20h. a.m., the Board gives the permission and the riot cops enter the school. 28 people were arrested and taken into custody. Their names are: Ioannis-Avgerinos Kaifas, Konstantinos Panagiotidis, Chr. Spilios, Konstantinos Stamoulakatos, Dimitris Anagnostopoulos, Dimitris Hadjivassiliadis, Ilias Kimeris, Pr. Kalatzis, Pandelis Vouteris, Ioannis Mirahtsis, G. Tsagarakis, Nik. Spitikopoulos, Konstantinos Aspiotis, Bas. Dalapaschas, Stella Evgenikou, Nik. Varvarinos, Pan. Makris, Nik. Vlassis, Chrissomallis Kontos, G. Tsigaridis, Konstantinos Bobolas, Andreas Moros, Androniki Kechagia, Konstantinos Avgerinopoulos, Michalis Voutetakis, Psillakos and two minors (under 18), whose names were not published, but just their initials El. P. and G.K. (we will try to send you their names too).

The next day after the evacuation, Saturday, October 26, the arrested people were taken to the District Attorney's Office, where charges were pressed against them. Many people had come to express solidarity to the arrested, but the riot cops who guarded the building did not let anyone come close.

On October 29, the trial against the first six started. Once more, the police did not let anyone come near the building. One of the six youngsters, Thanassis Haldoupis, fell unconscious in the court room, as a result of his brutal beating by the police, while in custody. His very life was in danger, yet the District Attorney, Athanassopoulos and the President of the Court, Ioanna Louka, did not allow him medical care. Finally, an ambulance came, but they still did not allow him to be taken to a hospital. Finally, 4 hours after, he was transferred to a hospital, under police surveillance.

The trial of the other 5 continued, until October 29. The

witnesses testifying against the defendants were cops, who said things like "He was in a group of people that threw stones" or "He put a cardboard box into a burning barricade". The five people were convicted with extremely high penalties. In details: Vassilis Xanthis, 7 years in prison, Vassilis Kapnissis, 6 years plus 9 months in prison, Nikos Gougostamos, 5 years plus 6 months in prison, Iasonas Papadimitriou and Irini Koutsogiorgou, 5 years each in prison.

On October 29, the trial against the 27 of the 28 arrested during the evacuation of the Polytechnic started. The courthouse was still surrounded by mighty police forces. Finally, on October 31, the trial ended. Six people were declared not guilty and were set free. These were: Ioannis-Avgerinos Kaifas, Konstantinos Panagiotidis, Chr. Spilios, Konstantinos Stamoulakatos, Dimitris Anagnostopoulos and Dimitris Chadjivassiliadis. Two were convicted to 3 years in prison: Ilias Kimeris and Pr. Kaladjis. Two others were convicted to 2.5 years in prison: Pandelis Vouteris and Ioannis Mirachtsis. Twelve were convicted to 1.5 year in prison: G. Tsagarakis, Nik. Spitikopoulos, Kon. Aspiotis, Bas. Dalapaschas, Stella Evgenikou, Nik. Varvarinos, Pan. Makris, Nik. Vlassis, Chrissomallis Kondos, G. Tsigaridis, Kon. Bobolas and Andr. Moros. Five were convicted to 1 year in prison: Androniki Kehagia, Kon. Avgerinopoulos, Mich. Voutetakis and the two minors, El.P. and G.K. On November 1, the District Attorney said that it was wrong that the six people were declared not guilty and that the others were convicted to "extremely short times in prison". He also prosecuted the 27 people for the burning down of the Polytechnic school building.

Shortly after midnight of the same day, the organisation "November 17" attacked a riot police bus with missiles. One policeman was killed and six more were wounded.

The next day, November 2, 33 people were arrested for fly-posting and handing out leaflets against the police and the fascists. They are: Fassolis Dimitris, Kalostipis Apostolos, Mouzakitis Nikolaos, Markopoulos Efsthathios, Vavouliotis Angelos, Baxevanis Michalis, Kentepozidis Serafeim, Kosmas Giorgos, Ballis Ioannis, Kalaremas Konstantinos, Gatsis Nikolaos, Boudouvas Ilias, Michas Theophanis, Gerontidis Georgios, Georgantakis Konstantinos, Sierras Christos, Vassilas Ioannis, Meriziotis Giorgos, Michailidis Socratis, Vorillas Chryssanthos, Koliri Maria, Koumoutsi Ioanna, Dimakopoulou Sofia, Metziou Dimitra, Tzioutzia Evangellia,

Theotokatou Roubini, Kalakou Konstantina, Vakalopoulou Athina, Drakou Christina, Nikolaïdou Maria, Roupa Panagiota, Malliou Ekaterini and Stratigopoulos Christos.

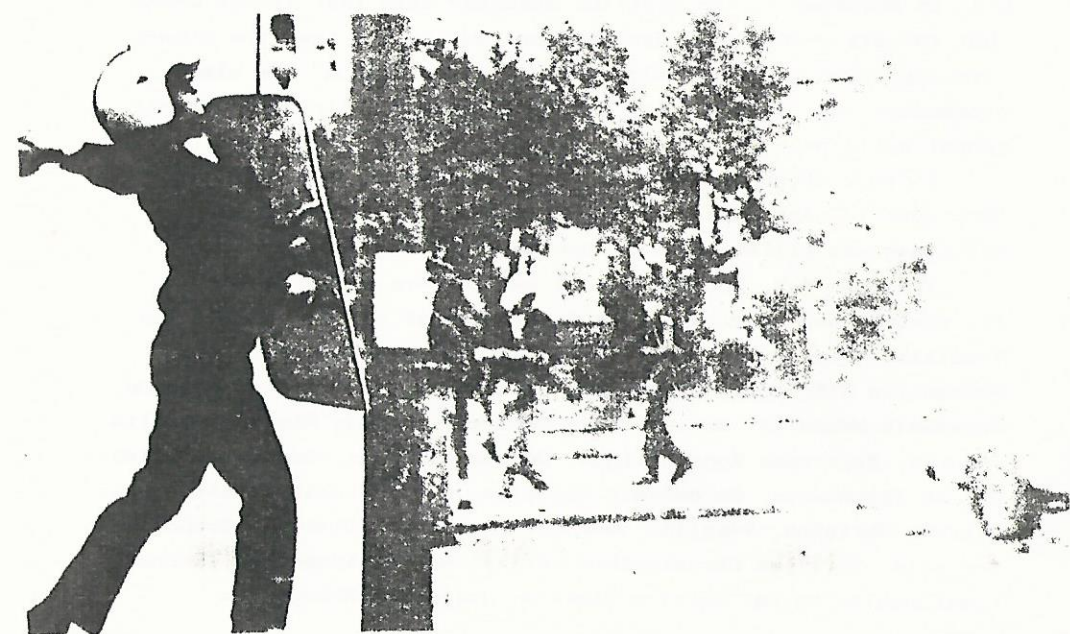
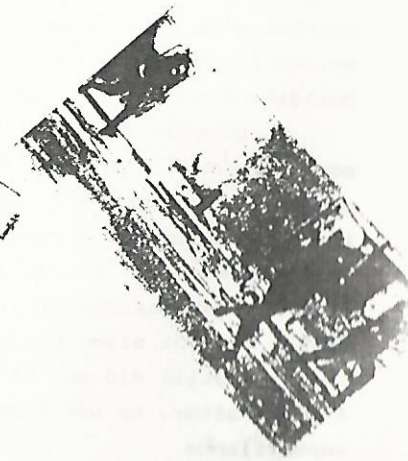
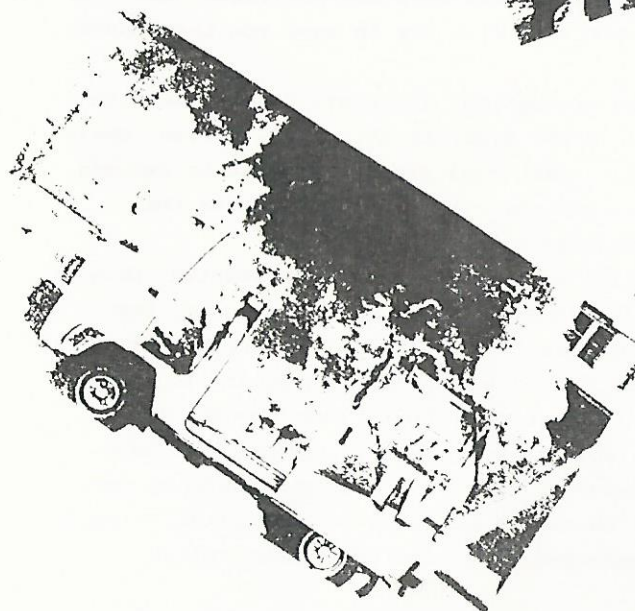
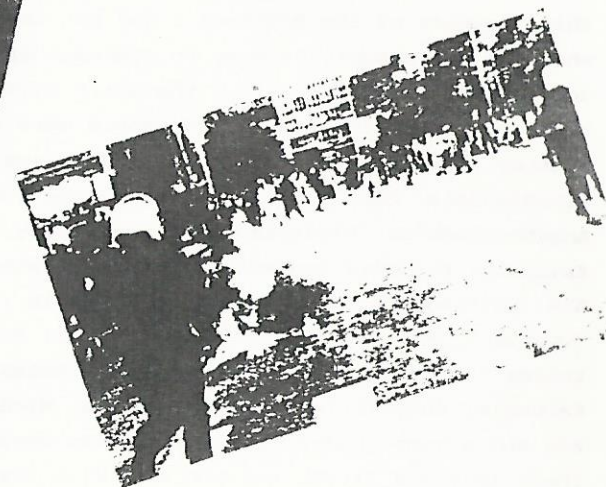
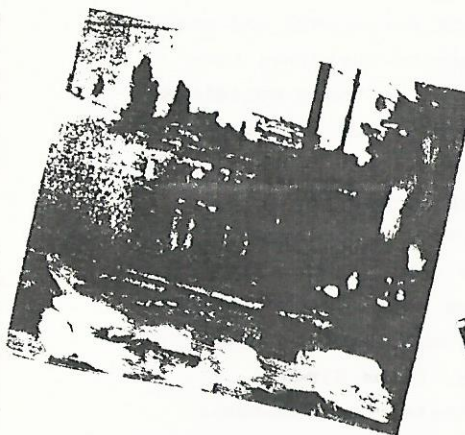
They were all taken to the police headquarters, both at the anti-terrorist department and at the department for the protection of the State. They have been brutally beaten up and tortured. One of the girls is pregnant, but they kept banging her head against the wall. They beat up the boys, while the girls were forced to watch. On November 3, they were taken to the District Attorney's Office, who pressed charges against them. These charges can lead to a conviction up to 15 years in prison, or even more. All 33 had visible signs of the tortures they underwent. Their trial is set for today, November 4. In the meantime, they have not been allowed to talk with lawyers or friends, and they were refused any medical care whatsoever.

This is the situation until this moment. If anything new happens, we will let you know as soon as possible.

AP/ABC ATHENS
8, Aristidou st.
105-59 ATHENS
tel. No. 32 24 770

A-infos
from Greece

N°6
NOVEMBER 1991



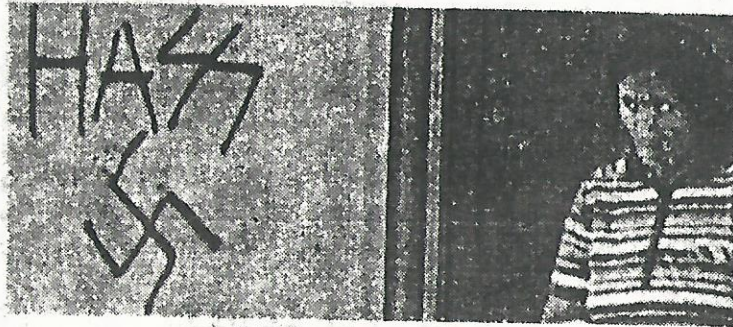
...NO RAA NO Fascis
U.S.A.I" and "Campus, on
the Streets, Scum Taste
students, faculty and on campus
workers to militantly oppose
them.

be maintained remains to be
seen. The bigger disa-
grace was a forum held

garbage, to put him on a panel
with anti-racists was a foolish
move.

...movement is so white.
(See Pa. for a Late Breaking
development)

Autonomists Challenge Germany's Neo-Nazi Menace



BY JAN KRAKER

SINCE REUNIFICATION on October 3rd of last year, Germany has seen a frightening increase in far-right nationalism and youth neo-nazi violence. This problem has been made more acute by the continued arrival of hundreds of asylum-seekers each day, fleeing the political repression and economic devastation which imperialism has brought to their homelands. Many of these immigrants come to Germany from Turkey, North Africa, and Asia, seeking the refuge which is allowed to them under Germany's constitution. Indeed, it is this refugee-clause in the constitution which the German Parliament is currently seeking to change as Europe prepares to close its borders to all "unwanted" (read non-white) refugees with the coming of Capitalist Unity at the close of 1992.

To confront the growing right-wing menace — in particular violent attacks by neo-nazi youth gangs on foreigners

— Germany's autonomist scene has been trying both to generate resistance to right-wing attacks, and to offer concrete solidarity to Germany's immigrant communities. On August 22, the clandestine autonomous group the *Revolutionaere Zellen* (Revolutionary Cells), bombed the Immigration Division of the Provincial Administration building in the city of Boblingen, to protest Germany's racist immigration policies. The attack, which injured no one, resulted in property damage totalling DM 500,000 (about \$375,000). More recently, autonomists bombed five empty buses which had been used to move refugees to temporary camps — whose central location made it easier to deport the "undesirables."

Under the motto of "Solidarity with all political prisoners, against Restructuring, Against Racism, Sexism, Together we are stronger!" Berlin anarchists held a street festival along with Turkish youths in the neighbor-

hood of Kreuzberg on Sunday, September 15. Police attacked the festival, resulting in hours of rioting and street-fighting between police and autonomists and Turkish youths, leaving two supermarkets looted, several police cars burnt, six officers in the hospital, and three demonstrators arrested.

While they are quick to violently suppress any anarchist/leftist demonstrations, Germany's police have done little to stop neo-nazi youth gangs from carrying out attacks on foreigners. Over the last several weeks, these attacks have occurred almost daily, especially in the former East Germany. Usually between the ages of 16-18, neo-nazi youths attack foreigners on the street with clubs and beer-bottles, and they hurl rocks and firebombs at refugee centers. On one night alone, 6 houses were attacked in Nordrhein-Westfalen; a school being used as an asylum center in Datteln was burned; 2 houses in Brandenburg were attacked; and an asylum house in Hanover was firebombed. Just days earlier, an Ethiopian man was beaten to death by skinheads in Stuttgart.

The reaction of Germany's politicians has been weak at best. While condemning the violent attacks on foreigners, the government's "benevolent" solution to the problem has been to round up foreigners and place them into refugee camps and to quickly deport — "for their own safety" — refugees who the government believe are "merely" entering Germany for economic reasons.

All the while the German Parliament is debating ways to rewrite the immigration clause in the constitution, thereby codifying the German State's racist outlook on immigrants.

As the state has been unwilling to act on the immigrants' behalf, Germany's autonomous-left has done so instead. Some 400 autonomists travelled to the village of Hoyerswerda in the former East Germany — the site of nightly attacks on foreigners and asylum centers — to confer with local immigrant groups on how best to confront the problem. What about the police? The immigrants and anarchists agree: "They stand by and do nothing. These attacks have been happening...every night, the police weren't around, or they came maybe an hour or an hour and a half later. Only this weekend, when we [the autonomists] were around, were the police out in force." Together the autonomists and the immigrant groups organized a march for September 29th in which some 4,000 people took part. And yet, more than 2,000 police also showed up in Hoyerswerda. The police used water cannons to (once again) disperse the anti-fascist demonstrators. Again street fighting broke out and dozens of demonstrators and police were injured. There were 17 arrests.

Despite vigorous anti-fascist organizing, Germany's far right continues to gain in size and strength, with the tacit approval of Germany's racist police force and Parliament. Recently, several far-right groups formed a new political party, the *Deutsche Liga*

fur Folk und Heimat (the German League for the People and the Fatherland). And on the streets, neo-nazi youths are continuing their campaign of fascist violence. On October 12, an asylum center in the town of In-nestadt was burned to the ground, injuring several foreigners. Youth gangs wounded several other foreigners in attacks over the weekend of October 12, including a Moroccan man who is now in serious condition in a hospital in the town of Greifswald. Again, although Chancellor Helmut Kohl has condemned these attacks, he sees them as evidence that Germans want the number of refugees allowed to enter Germany to be drastically reduced.

Given the inaction of the biased police force and the racist political approach of the Government, autonomous, street-level organizing is the only way to confront Germany's growing right-wing menace. Anarchist and anti-fascist patrols have been active in larger cities such as Berlin for some time now. But now the autonomous-left is seeking to increase its ties to immigrant groups in smaller towns, particularly in the former East Germany, where neo-nazi groups have been most active and where left-wing activists have had less experience in organizing ways to fight back against fascist violence. German autonomists hope to learn from their experiences, such as at Hoyerswerda, so as to try and provide effective anti-fascist resistance and immigrant solidarity in the turbulent months to come.

REPORTS FROM UKRAINIAN ANARCHISTS

(out-takes and summaries from various letters)

Hi Neither East Nor West:

Our publication *Nester* is the "Information Agency" of the Confederation of Ukrainian Anarchists (CAU). In the CAU we have many private members in towns plus some groups. In the CAU we have syndicalists, anarcho-Tolstoyists, Makhnovists [Nester Makhno, Ukrainian anarchoist leader who fought both the Czarists and the Bolsheviks], individuals, pacifists, anarcho-communists etc. We have friends in Switzerland (CIRA - International Center for Research on Anarchism), Italy (*Umanita Nova* newspaper), and the French Anarchist Federation. We know little about American anarchists. Our Information Agency is very popular and covers not only anarchism but other issues in Ukraine and the USSR. I'm a reporter and work for Ukrainian newspapers...

The 3rd Assembly of CAU was held from June 1-2. A resolution was passed that said that anarcho-syndicalism was only one part of the economic program of CAU. We want to work in the revolutionary traditions of the "Makhno-movement." The Assembly was critical of Moscow's Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS) for being spokes-persons for anarchism. The Assembly agreed to cooperate with the Association of Anarchist Movements (ADA) and the Anarcho-Democratic Union (ADS). On nationalism, the Assembly was against imperial chauvinism in any form (Great-Russian, Great-Ukrainian, etc) and against nationalist confrontational tendencies in authoritarian Ukrainian mass parties. Friendly relations were wanted with the Social Democrats (Left) of Ukraine, greens, and the Bloc of Left Forces. The Assembly also wanted the house/museum of Nester Makhno restored and a monument built for him...

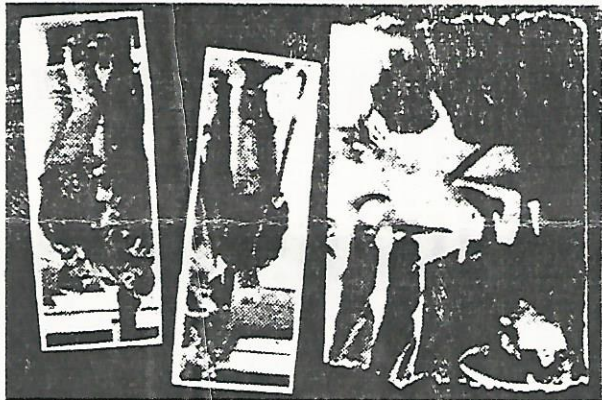
We had our 4th Assembly from August 24-25. We agreed to join the International Workers Association: IRA Ukraine, Dnepropetrovsk 320100, P. Geroev 20/95, Ukraine. Delegates censured the Soviet coup and the Moscow KAS bureaucrats. CAU has cut ties with KAS. CAU now has members in 24 towns. In Ukraine: Berd-jansk, Gulay-Pole, Zaporoz'e, Kramatorsk, Brianskol, Justynuvajala, Starokonstantinov, Kiev, Zhitomir, Novonikolajevka, Kharkov, Stakhanov, Dzerzhinsk, Donetsk, Drugkowska, Golin, Dnepropetrovsk, Wolno-gorsk, Sevastopol, Lvov, and Cherkassy. In Byelorussia: Sol-gorsk, Minsk. In Russia (South): Maykop. In Nester # 60 we'll have information from *Love and Rage* and *The Shadow* (about Tompkins Square Park struggles). Our boys read that with joy.

Be Easy!
Yuri
Nester
Yuri Anisimov
Zhitomir 262030
Ul. Manvilsky 98,
Kv. 47, Ukraine.



Czecho-Slovakian Anarchists Fight Cop And Skinhead Repression And Attacks

SIX Czecho-Slovakian anarchists were arrested and are still facing charges from 2 demos on the 15th and 30th of May, called by the Czecho-Slovakian Anarchist Association and high school students, against the "Czechoslovakia General Exhibition" in Prague. According to the anarchists the "exhibition is a bombastic advertising campaign of the new regime," huge amounts of money were spent on it, "this money is badly needed in other areas such as health care." Two students were attacked and arrested at the May 15th 30 person demo for throwing 2 smoke bombs in an empty space in front of the action. Four other anarchists were busted at the May 30th demo, where 20-25 anarchists were attacked by 60 skinheads armed with clubs and other weapons. The police who normally show up promptly for anarchist actions, came late for this one, and then only arrested anarchists. The incident became notorious in Czechoslovakia where the cops often ignore skinhead attacks. Even Jim Knerr, the spokesperson for Prague's mayor said "If I had seen this kind of incident two years ago, I would have concluded that the skinheads were employed by the police."



New "Democrat" Prg, March 15; Next Skin, March 30

All 6 anarchists are charged with causing a disturbance and attacking cops. They are: Filip Novak, Antonin Votroubek, Daniel Vesely, Jakub Polak, Petr Stipos, and Miloslav Khuma. An international campaign is being organized for them with people adding their names to a petition to Czechoslovakia's President Vachal Havel demanding that the charges be dropped. If you'd like to add your name send it to: Roman Laube, Kettnerova 2062, 15500 Prague 5, Czechoslovakia. For more info write: A + Kontra, Valdestejnska 14, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia.

— This page reprinted from:
LOVE AND RAGE
P.O. Box 3, Prince St. Stn.
NEW York.
N.Y. 10013. U.S.A.
("Revolutionary Anarchist Paper" every 2 months.)

LETTER from BELGIUM ...

" In Gent there are some squatting efforts made but most of them are evicted right away. There is one place KETELVEST 8 that has been squatted for about six months. Most of the squatters are Autonomen. Normally, every Wednesday there is a Volkkuiche (people's kitchen...squatty cafe affair. Ed.)
Contact: Ketelvest 8, 9000 GENT. Belgium.

Last Sunday (24th Nov ??) there were elections here. ^{are you sure?} The fascist party Het Vlaary Blok (V.B) has won the elections. The last weeks there were many actions against Het Vlaary Blok -

In Roselare on 17th Nov. we organised a demo which 60-70 people attended. After the action 100-200 people rioted with the fascists and smashed the windows of the local V.B pub.

In Gent on 18th Nov. a blockade of a V.B meeting with a 100 people.

In Brugge on 22 Nov. a blockade of a V.B meeting by 100-120 people.

In Belgium we often do actions against the fur trade....We tried to block Belgium's biggest fur shop with about 50-60 autonomen. After the police attacked us, a battle with the cops began. 6 people were arrested and beaten up. 2 are facing charges. 2 police vans damaged - 3 police seriously injured".

LETTER from SWEDEN ...

" Last Friday (29th Nov ??) a policeman killed a skinhead. Since then there's been riots all over the country...We have Nazis here in Sweden. There are Nazi organisations that originally come from Germany. After the killing the Nazis and racists more or less declared civil war. We heard them on TV and radio saying things like " The police is not going to get away with it. We are gonna use weapons to get rid of all the foreigners and get even with the cops." All across Sweden, Nazis and racists demonstrated and lots of anti-racists met up. Fights and troubles between them and then all the cops which didn't help. More troubles started.

On Saturday the Nazis celebrated our old King Karl XII on the day that he died. They marched through Stockholm with Gestapo flags doing the Heil Hitler sign...It was like a bomb exploded. The Nazis have been working underground before sending letter-bombs to politicians and stuff. Anti-racists and anti-fascists haven't been very organised...the fascists get more and more organised. Some of them even carry weapons in the street. Recently a group of nazis broke into a police station and stole over a hundred guns "to start a war", they said. The trial is later this week. "



Nov
Saturday 30th Dec. 8-30pm - Midnight in Stockholm.
There was an Anti-fascist demo of 5000 on the day of celebration for King Karl XII (national hero and conqueror). There was also a fascist demo. 300 extra cops had to be called in with horses and dogs and they tried to stop the fascist demo. The fascists went beserk and the police tried to divert the anti-fascists from where the fascists were. This resulted in trouble. 94 arrests of which 20 were held. Lots of injuries and damage.
200 BZ (squatter-autonomous types) arrived from Denmark to join the anti-fascist demo.

(Loosley translated from trashy SWEDISH newspaper)

HEY! YOU LOT... 56A INFOSHOP HAS PRODUCED A CONTACT LIST FOR THE U.K (100+ addresses) AND ONE FOR THE WORLD (150+). IF YOU WANT THEM, THEN WRITE FOR ONE. WRITE TO A's, MAKE THEIR DAY!

9

-X-



LE PEN^{IN} town

Jean Marie Le Pen, leader of the French fascist party Front National, was in London from 4th - 6th December. During his time over here he was followed around by several pickets of where he was staying (Sheraton Hotel) and of his press conference. His final engagement was as guest of honour at Western Goals Institute annual dinner.

Western Goals see Le Pen as natural leader of a Euro-Fascist Network and themselves have extensive contacts with well-established far right groups like World Anti-Communist League, Moonies plus fascist groups in Germany and our own National Front (whose member Steve Brady was at the dinner).

On Friday 6th, the night of the dinner at Charing Cross Hotel, about 1000 people gathered in the forecourt of the place and chanted etc.etc. We were hemmed in by cops at all sides. A few minor pushes were made against the police lines but these resulted in arrests and injuries to us. Most people were content to stand around chanting despite guests at the dinner arriving on foot and being easy targets for abuse (or worse as some of them wandered into the demo to take a look). After an hour and a half the crowd moved out of the forecourt to block The Strand which was a good move. Some more pushing against police lines happened but there were too many cops. After blocking the road for a while we suddenly marched away from the Hotel and down to Trafalgar Sq where we fucked up the traffic for another hour by moving around the Square and blocking the junctions. Some more arrests were made by St. Martins In The Field which could have been prevented. Eventually we marched back to the Hotel and heard some speeches and then went home. The end.



The rumours all week were that Le Pen was going to visit either Brick Lane in the East End or Bermondsey in South London, the site of British National Party papersales. Meeting points for anti-fascists were announced at the Friday demo in case Mr. Le Pen did turn up but while anti-fascists stood around freezing on a Saturday morning, I suspect Le Pen was enjoying breakfast on his flight back to Paris. About 40 of Bermondsey's finest SWP members (plus a smattering of local anti-fascists) showed out in force from 10am till noon and then left after which the fascists came along and did their usual papersale.



The Labour council of Lewisham in South London have started a nasty campaign against all squatters in the borough. They have produced very large day-glo pink posters condemning squatters for making people homeless...?!?!

The posters are on prime Council controlled sites all over the borough and are impossible to miss. Particularly nasty is their setting up of a hotline for people to grass any squatters or squatted places that they know of.

The main headline on this generous poster campaign is " **Squatters Don't Pay...Homeless Families Do!**". This is all very much in line with the current media campaign which seeks to disassociate squatting from the question of homelessness. With the Home Office "consultation" on changing the laws in squatting due to end in March '92, there have been scare stories about squatting in most of the trash and quality newspapers of our land massaging public opinion to support a change in the law. This is no coincidence.

Strangely, there can't be more than 50 squats in Lewisham anyway so what a waste of Poll Tax payers (?) money. You can call Lewisham's anti-squat team direct on 081 695 0654.

In the Socialist Republic of Southwark, squatting is also facing a determined attack by local Housing Office psycho's who have been repossessing squats while people are out. They have also been smashing toilets to prevent re-squatting. On one estate roughly fifty squatters have been given tenancies but elsewhere PIO's and repos continue right into the festive season.

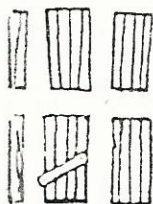
Southwark council has also just voted to change its tenants tenancy agreements to allow the bureaucrats to use bailiffs to evict for rent arrears cases. Despite overwhelming opposition from Tenants groups, the Council passed the motion in a sitting of the Housing Committee and didn't take the controversial decision to a full Council meeting.

LATE NEWS

There are 61 squatted council properties in LEWISHAM... they received 25 calls on their hotline.

-10-

(15.1.92)



NEWS FROM LONDON

Here is some news about social struggles in London, and elsewhere in Britain, in November and December 1991. We hope that you will circulate this information, and also send us information about struggles in your area. We also hope that where possible people will try and build direct international links with those involved as part of the emergence of a world-wide anti-capitalist movement.

Write to: Box LN, 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24
or 56a Info Shop, 56 Crampton St, London SE17

WOMEN

● In November, up to 3000 women marched in London to mark **International Day to End Violence Against Women**. They demanded the release of Sarah Thornton, Karinjit Ahluwalia and Amelia Rossiter, who all killed their husbands in self-defence.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

● Monday November 18th 1991: Picket of Olympic Airways and the Greek Embassy in solidarity with the schools occupations movement in Greece, and in particular with anarchists and others arrested in state repression.

(*International Solidarity Network*, c/o 56a Crampton Street, London SE17, **Anarchist Black Cross (London)**, BM Hurricane, London WC1N 3XX, **Anarchist Black Cross (Athens)**, 8 Aristidou Street, 10559 Athens)

LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

● Sunday 1 December 1991: Eleven members of the lesbian and gay group **OutRage** were arrested for disrupting a service at St Michael's Church, Belgravia, London. The Reverend Christopher Guinness from the church has been offering courses to "cure" lesbians and gay men of homosexuality. **OutRage** say they will continue their protests until he stops.

OutRage received national publicity in November when they leafleted a school in North London with a leaflet called "What should you do if a friend tells you they are lesbian or gay?". They were highlighting the lack of information about homosexuality given in schools. A recent Health Education Authority survey of teenagers showed that only 18% reported any mention of lesbian or gay issues in their sex education.

(**OutRage** c/o London Lesbian and Gay Centre, 67-69 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP)

● On 7 December, nearly 2000 people protested in Preston, Lancashire in support of local lesbian and gay youth groups. Funding for some local projects has been withdrawn by the Lancashire County Council.

RACISM/ANTI-RACISM

● As part of the moves towards "Fortress Europe", the British government is planning new racist laws to make it harder for refugees to settle here. If the "Asylum Bill" becomes law, refugees will only have 48 hours to make an application for refugee status. These applications will be processed and usually rejected in a matter of days. Refugees will lose the right to legal aid, which means that most will be unable to afford legal assistance. All refugees will be fingerprinted, part of a process of criminalisation. Airlines will be forced to act as immigration officers- the fines for carrying people without travel documents will be doubled to £2000.

● Sunday November 10th: 3500 people took part in an **Anti-Fascist Action** demonstration in Bethnal Green, East London, against racist attacks. AFA also organised a 300 strong demo against fascist paper sellers in Brick Lane on October 26th. Later the same day, Richard Edmonds (a leader of the British National Party) was ambushed and beaten up near Kings Cross Station.

(**Anti-Fascist Action**, BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX)

● The visit of French National Front leader Jean Marie Le Pen to Britain at the beginning of December was marked by a number of protests. The largest was on Friday December 6th, when Le Pen was speaking at a dinner organised by the right-wing **Western Goals** group at the Charing Cross Hotel in London. Between one and two thousand people demonstrated outside the hotel. 12 people were arrested as people tried to break through the cordon of police protecting the hotel. Demonstrators blocked traffic in the Strand and around Trafalgar Square.

HEALTH

● November 30 1991: AIDS direct action group **ACT-UP** (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) staged a protest in Piccadilly Circus, central London to mark World AIDS Day. People blocked traffic before setting off on a spontaneous march, which was stopped by the police. 12 people were arrested.

(**ACT-UP London**, BM 2995, London WC1N 3XX, telephone 071-490-5749)

● 9/12/91: health workers in Barnet demonstrated against cuts in local community health services- they marched in Finchley, the constituency of Margaret Thatcher, MP. The next day there was a demonstration outside Charing Cross Hospital by workers opposed to Riverside Health Authority cuts that could lead to the loss of 1000 jobs and 400 hospital beds.

On Friday 12th December there was another protest at Charing Cross Hospital, against Gregory Lauder-Frost,

operations manager of Riverside Health Authority. Lauder-Frost is also the director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the right-wing conservative **Monday Club**. In a recent newspaper interview he called for black people to be expelled from Britain.

PRISONERS

● On December 1st, there was a picket of Highpoint prison in support of imprisoned Gulf War resister Vic Williams. On the same day about 100 people protested in London, demanding his release. Vic refused to fight in the war and deserted from the army. While on the run he spoke at anti-war meetings. He was sentenced to 14 months in jail by a military court in September 1991.

(Write to: Vic Williams, LE 3363, HMP Highpoint, Stradishall, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 9YG.

Vic Williams Defence Campaign, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4)

● December 21st: 80 prisoners clashed with prison officers at Full Sutton prison on Humberside. They refused to return to their cells for two hours.

● 120 people have been jailed for non-payment of the poll tax, for up to 3 months. About 100 people were also jailed after the Trafalgar Square poll tax riot of March 31st 1990. Six of them are still in jail. Please send them messages of support:

Brian Tavares MV3239, HMP Camp Hill, Clissold Rd, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB.

Tim Donaghy MW0105, HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD

Matt Lee MW1054, HMP Featherstone, New Road, Featherstone, Wolverhampton, WV10 7PU (due to be released in January 1992)

Simon Russell ND1666, HMP The Mount, Molyneux Ave, Bovingdon, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0NZ

Mark Hutchings MW2737, c/o TSDC, 506 Brixton Rd, London SW9.

(Poll Tax Prisoners Support Network, c/o 506 Brixton Rd, London SW9, telephone 071-738-7586)

POLL TAX

● Although the government has announced that the poll tax is to be abolished, people are being told that they will have to continue paying it until a new local government tax ("the Council Tax") is introduced. Resistance to the poll tax, including mass non-payment is continuing.

Poll tax bailiffs can seize people's goods for not paying the tax. In December bailiffs (called Sheriff Officers in Scotland) planned to enter up to 300 homes in the Glasgow area. Resistance meant that they were only able to enter one of the targetted homes. Up to 1000 people went on to the streets of the Springburn area of the city. 29 people were arrested during the protests, and 300 people surrounded a police station demanding their release.

● The trial has started of some of the 15 people facing serious charges after a poll tax demo in Colchester in March 1990. If convicted, some of the defendants could face up to 10 years in jail.

(Colchester 15 Defence Campaign, c/o Terry Peach, Secretary, Anti-Poll Tax Union, AEU Halls, Barrack Street, Colchester, Essex)

HOUSING

● The government is considering new laws that would make some types of squatting a criminal offence for the first time. This comes at a time when there over a third of a million homeless people in the UK, 150,000 in London. There are about 50,000 people squatting, 30,000 in London. **SQUASH (Squatters' Action for Secure Homes)** has been established to organise opposition to any new laws. Local groups, such as Camden Squatters Group and Lambeth Housing Action have also been set up.

(SQUASH, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1 2QN, tel: 0424-714895, fax: 0424-754375)

● On Saturday November 9th three empty houses owned by Prince Charles and managed by the Duchy of Cornwall were entered and occupied near Yeovil, Somerset. The action was carried out by people from Bristol Housing Action and Bristol Class War, and was widely supported by local people. The houses have been left empty for two years while the owners wait for house prices to rise before they sell them off. 50 police smashed their way into the occupation and arrested 12 people.

(Bristol Class War, PO Box 772, Bristol BS99 1EG)

● Around 150 people joined a lively march through Hackney on December 21st, called by **Hackney Housing Campaign**. They demanded an end to the criminalisation of squatting, rent rises, mortgage repossessions and slum conditions.

STUDENT OCCUPATIONS

● In November and December a wave of protests swept the colleges. More than 20 colleges were occupied, some for up to four weeks. The longest running occupation was at London's Middlesex Polytechnic where five of the college's seven sites were occupied. In many other places there were protests such as demos and canteen boycotts. Grievances included low student grants, high rents and canteen prices, and overcrowded educational facilities. In some places (e.g. Glasgow Polytechnic and Thames Polytechnic, London) occupations won reductions in rent and canteen price rises. A combination of court action against students and the start of the Christmas holidays meant that the movement has now died down. The underlying issues of student poverty and education cuts remain however, and fresh protests are likely in the New Year.

(Incite- radical Middx Poly students magazine- c/o Enfield Student Union, Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Middlesex EN3 4SF)